

Debris Removal

Objective:	To remove debris in path of spill before oiling and to remove contaminated debris from the shoreline and water surface.
Description:	Manual or mechanical removal of debris (driftwood, seaweed, trash, wreckage) from the shore or water surface. Can include cutting and removal of oiled logs.
Applicable Habitat Types:	Can be used on any habitat or environment type where access is safe.
When to Use:	When debris is heavily contaminated and provides a potential source of secondary oil release; an aesthetic problem; a source of contamination for other resources in the area is likely to clog skimmers; or likely to cause safety problems for responders. Used in areas of debris accumulation on beaches before oiling to minimize the amount of oiled debris to be handled.
Biological Constraints:	Foot traffic over sensitive areas (wetlands, spawning grounds) must be restricted. May be periods when entry should be denied (spawning periods, influx of large numbers of migratory waterbirds). Debris may also be a habitat.
Environmental Effects:	Physical disruption of substrate, especially when mechanized equipment must be deployed to recover a large quantity of debris.

Debris Removal (cont.)

Waste Generation: Will generate contaminated debris (volume depends on what, and how much, is collected, e.g., logs, brush). Unless there is an approved hazardous waste incinerator that will take oily debris, burning will seldom be allowed, especially on-site burning. However, this option should still be explored, especially for remote locations, with the appropriate state or Federal agencies that must give approvals for burning.

The advantage of pre-spill debris collections is that waste disposal requirements will likely be less restrictive than if the debris is oiled. Once oiled, the debris is likely to be handled as a hazardous waste.